

JOHN ALEXANDER FORTIE AND EMMA JANE JEFFS FORTIE

John Alexander Fortie was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, September 30, 1872, son of Alexander Fortie and Rachel Howarth Fortie.

John's father was a carpenter and so John worked with him and learned the trade.



When John was 18 years old, his father passed away, leaving John with a widowed mother to care for. Later his mother married William M. Giles, and John went to make his home with his sister and brother-in-law, Joseph A. Murdock.

John was called on a mission to the Southern States in February, 1895, and spent three years laboring among the people there. Upon his return home he was an active member of the Sunday School Board and later worked in the Mutual and was a teacher in Sunday School.

Emma Jane Jeffs Fortie was born in Heber City, Wasatch County, May 14, 1875. She is the daughter of Mark Walker Jeffs and Mary Carlile Jeffs.

When three years old, her mother died, leaving her father with three small children, Eliza Ann, Mary Elizabeth, and herself. Her father later married Sarah Ann Chatwin, who was a very good mother to them and was loved by all. Emma worked in her father's store a number of years before she was married.

On January 11, 1899, she and John Alexander Fortie were married in the Salt Lake Temple. To this union were born 11 children, among them two sets of twins. Only five children are now living, three girls and two boys.

On January 12, John, with his mother and his wife, left by train for Thatcher, Arizona, to visit with his sister Pamalie Clegg. They stayed in Thatcher till the last of March of that year and upon their return trip home visited in San Francisco and the Golden Gate Park.

John worked in Emma's father's store on his return to Heber. Two years later Emma's father bought Bishop Dave Van Wagoner's store in Midway, and John and Emma moved to Midway to run the place. While

there, John was made a member of the Wasatch High Council, and also served as counselor to Bishop Jacob Probst. They lived in Midway seven years, and then the store was sold, and they returned to Heber. They were in Heber just a few weeks when John left for Duchesne to work in Al Murdock's store. His wife and children did not go there to make their home until the following year.

John was presiding Elder there until the ward was organized, and Al Murdock was made bishop and John chosen as his first counselor. Later, Victor Billings was bishop and John was a counselor to him.

While they lived in Duchesne they experienced the vicissitudes of pioneering. There were eight of them living in two small rooms. They had to carry their water from the river and in the summer it was always muddy, and in winter it was necessary to break the ice to obtain it. Sickness and death also visited their home, losing a set of twins while there. One of their children lay near death's door with typhoid fever for thirteen weeks. They also experienced all the childhood diseases with their family. During one of the many windstorms they lost the roof of their home.

After Emma's stepmother's death her father wanted them to return to Heber and work for him in his coal and lumber business, which later they owned and operated many years.

On the 29th day of October, 1916, John was ordained a Patriarch of Wasatch Stake and served in this position until his death.

Other positions he held were mayor of Heber City, county commissioner, and president of the school board.

Emma worked in the Stake Relief Society as secretary, a position she held nine years. She was a counselor to Maybell Moulton in the Second Ward Relief Society and later served as president.

Emma and her sister Eliza had the pleasure of going to Mesa to the dedication of the Mesa Temple, and also visited with their sisters living there.

On November 18, 1953, John was stricken with a stroke and was confined to his bed three and one-half years. He passed away June 2, 1957.

Emma is still living and is 83 years old. She lives in her own home, does her own work, and is still enjoying good health.

Mark
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Jeffs